

# I WANT TO KNOW MY BIBLE

## *Joel – The Promise of the Spirit*

INTRODUCTION: I tell you in all honesty that I did not want to leave the Book of Isaiah, and having preached five messages from it, I am hoping the Lord will let me come back to that treasure trove of Holy Scripture and preach through the entire book sometime in years to come.

But if a person has to leave Isaiah, the Book of Joel is a great place to go. Some think that Joel was the very first of the writing prophets. We cannot know that with certainty because the book does not tell us, but certainly Joel was a least among the first. And that is an interesting fact, because Joel actually tells us the most about the course of end time events.

That may shock some of you, and you may be reacting to say, what about Daniel? Or what about Ezekiel? And it is true that both of those books have tremendous and fascinating end time prophecy within them. But both Daniel and Ezekiel offer great detail about certain events. Joel offers the most complete overview of end times in all of the Old Testament.

I leave for Brazil at the close of the service today to join our team that is there in planting a new church in Araquari, Santa Catarina, and then to teach the books of Genesis and Hebrews to the leaders in our Pastor Training in Biguaçu. I will only be gone one Sunday this time, and while I am away, Bro. Mark is going to preach through the entire Book of Jeremiah, - that's right, in one Sunday! But not to worry because Bro. Mark is not long winded like me, so he will boil it down to the most essential ingredients I am sure.

But when I get back, and I will be here Lord willing on April 13, I will preach on Sunday morning from the obscure prophet Obadiah and then that night, I am going to show you Joel's outline of End Time Events. It is very complete and extremely fascinating.

But today, I want to take you to what is probably the best known passage in the Book of Joel, and one quoted prominently in the New Testament, because of its tremendous importance to all of us who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. That passage is The Promise of the Spirit.

Joel 2:28–32 <sup>28</sup> “And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. <sup>29</sup> And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

<sup>30</sup> “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. <sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. <sup>32</sup> And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

Like the prophecy of Isaiah read by Jesus in Nazareth, the prophecy given by the Holy Spirit concerning Himself is one that is fulfilled in two parts. Verses 28-29 began to be fulfilled at Pentecost, which prompted Peter to quote these words:

*Acts 2:16–17* <sup>16</sup> But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> *‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; ...*

**Of each of the three persons of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is probably the least understood.**

**Of the many false doctrines being taught today under the name of Christianity, a large portion of them are doctrines related to the Holy Spirit.**

Consequently, what I am going to share with you today, using the prophecy of Joel as a springboard and diving into the whole of Scripture about the Holy Spirit is of great importance to every believer. What I am going to share with you today will keep you from error that if you do not avoid will ultimately cause you grief in your day to day life.

## **I. THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

### **A. The Holy Spirit is God, equal with the Father and the Son.**

*Acts 5:3-4* <sup>3</sup> But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself? <sup>4</sup> While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

### **B. The Holy Spirit is personal.**

- 1. He is not something; He is someone.**
- 2. The Holy Spirit is not an “it;” the Holy Spirit is “He.”**
- 3. The Holy Spirit is not a force or power; He is the third person of the Trinity.**

*John 16:13-15* ... when **He**, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He** will guide you into all truth; for **He** will not speak on **His** own *authority*, but whatever **He** hears **He** will speak; and **He** will tell you things to come.

- 4. The actions of the Spirit are personal actions: He can search, speak, cry, pray, testify, teach, lead, and command.**
- 5. He is given personal names. In the New Testament alone He is given 39 different designations including**
  - a. the Spirit of God**
  - b. the Spirit of Christ**
  - c. the Spirit of Jesus**
  - d. the Eternal Spirit**
  - e. the Promise of the Father**
  - f. the Spirit of truth**

- g. **the Spirit of holiness**
- h. **the Spirit of grace**
- i. **the Spirit of glory**
- j. **the Comforter**
- k. **And over 100 times He is called “the Holy Spirit.”**
  - **As the Father is divine and personal,**
  - **as the Son is both divine and personal,**
  - **so also the Holy Spirit is divine and personal.**

## **II. THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE PAST**

- A. Like the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit is preexistent.** Genesis 1:1-2 <sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
- B. The Holy Spirit worked in Old Testament times.**
1. **He energized the early creation.** Genesis 1:2b ... And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
  2. **He was a part of the creation of man.** Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ...
  3. **He came upon certain individuals to empower them for particular tasks.**
    - a. **The Holy Spirit gave Joseph administrative ability. (Genesis 41:38)**
    - b. **The Holy Spirit gave Moses and the elders leadership ability. (Num. 11:17-39)**
    - c. **He gave Gideon courage. (Judges 6:34)**
    - d. **The Spirit gave Saul ruling capacity. (1 Samuel 10:9-10)**
    - e. **The Holy Spirit gave David a heart for God. (1 Samuel 16:13)**
    - f. **He gave Daniel wisdom and discernment. (Daniel 4:8-9)**
    - g. **The Holy Spirit gave The Prophets understanding. (1 Peter 1:10-11)**
  4. **The Holy Spirit was responsible for directing and equipping for certain tasks.**
    - a. **construction of the tabernacle**
    - b. **making priestly garments**
    - c. **moving people to give generously**
    - d. **inspiration of the Scriptures**
- C. The enlarged work of the Holy Spirit during the period of the New Testament**

1. **The Holy Spirit came upon Christ in all of His fullness for the very first time.** *Isaiah 11:1-2* <sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

The Holy Spirit had come upon others before, but He had never come upon someone in all of the fullness of the Spirit. This was reserved for Christ in the incarnation.

2. **In the Old Testament era, the Holy Spirit had given to various individuals wisdom, leadership, prophetic foresight, physical strength, moral courage, and spiritual insight; but never before had all these virtues been found in one person.**
3. **The working of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus was everywhere evident.**
  - a. Jesus was ***conceived*** of the Holy Spirit.
  - b. Jesus was ***vindicated*** by the Holy Spirit.
  - c. Jesus was ***anointed*** by the Holy Spirit.
  - d. Jesus was ***gladdened*** by the Holy Spirit.
  - e. Jesus ***gave commands*** from the Holy Spirit.
4. **At Pentecost, the work the Holy Spirit did in the life of Christ became available to all who trusted in Jesus.**

This is the event of which Joel was prophesying.

- a. The Holy Spirit came upon every believer.
- b. The Holy Spirit came in all His fullness.
- c. The Holy Spirit gave birth to the church.

### III. THE HOLY SPIRIT TODAY

- A. **The Holy Spirit always points men to Christ.** *John 15:26* But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

*John 16:14* He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.

One of the surest ways to tell whether or not a particular work or occurrence is of the Holy Spirit is to see who is glorified by it. If the event draws attention to the Spirit Himself, then it is not of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit always draws attention to Christ, never to Himself.

- B. **The Holy Spirit works in the lives of the lost.** *John 16:8* And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
  1. **Convicts men of sin.**
  2. **Convinces them of the sole righteousness of Christ.**
  3. **Warns them of a judgment to come.**

**C. The Holy Spirit works in the lives of believers.**

1. **The Holy Spirit comes into the life of the believer at the moment of salvation.**
2. **He takes up permanent residence.** Romans 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
3. **This is called the indwelling of the Spirit because now the Holy Spirit dwells inside the life of the believer.** The fact that the Holy Spirit lives inside each one who believes is what makes it possible to declare that the body of the believer is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 6:19)

**D. The baptism of the Spirit.** 1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

1. The Greek word for baptism means immersion, putting something completely into. Therefore, the baptism of the Spirit means that the Spirit is putting the believer into something. Into what is the believer placed? He is placed into the body of Christ – the church!
2. **The baptism of the Spirit is the supernatural act of the Spirit immersing the believer into the church, the body of Christ.**
3. **It happens the moment a person is saved.**
4. **It is not a “second blessing” or second step of greater spirituality.**

**E. The sealing of the Spirit.** 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 <sup>21</sup> Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God, <sup>22</sup> who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

When someone is sealed, they are covered by a protective covering so that they cannot get out or something cannot get in to harm them. The Holy Spirit covers the believer and keeps the believer in Christ.

**F. The gifts of the Spirit.** 1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

1. **The Holy Spirit gives every believer at least one spiritual gift.**
2. **He gives each gift to edify the whole body, not for the edification of the believer.**
3. **The Holy Spirit selects the gifts to be given.**

**G. The Holy Spirit prays for us and with us. (Romans 8:26-27)****H. The Holy Spirit fills the believer.** Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

1. **To be filled with the Spirit means to be empowered and controlled by the Spirit.** Being filled with the Spirit is not the same as being indwelt by the Spirit. Every believer is indwelt by the Spirit of God and is initially filled when they are saved. But as soon as the believer takes back control of their life, then the believer is not longer controlled or filled by the Spirit. Since the Holy Spirit would never lead a believer to sin, sin is the sure evidence that the believer is not filled with the Spirit.

2. **Filling is not automatic.** Eph. 5:18 is a command. Being filled with the Spirit is something the Word of God tells us to do which instructs us that the filling does not take place automatically. It is something that each believer must choose to do.
3. **Sin blocks filling.** Repentance often accompanies the filling of the Spirit because if sin is ongoing in the life of the believer, he cannot be filled with the Spirit in that condition. One cannot be walking in sin and controlled by the Holy Spirit at the same time. Therefore, if we have had sin in our life, but we desire to yield anew to the control of the Spirit, then we must repent and confess our sin (thus receiving forgiveness and cleansing – 1 John 1:9) and then ask the Spirit to fill us.
4. **We are commanded to be continually filled with the Spirit.** Eph. 5:18 uses the verb “be filled” in the present active conjugation. This tense of the verb implies continuing action. In other words, we are not just filled once and therefore forever filled. We must continually seek the Holy Spirit’s control and empowering in our lives. We may have been fully surrendered to the control of the Spirit of God yesterday, but not fully surrendered to His control today.

#### **I. The Holy Spirit transforms us into the likeness of Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:18)**

CONCLUSION: Joel said the Holy Spirit would come upon you. Peter said it began at Pentecost. Paul says it happens to every believer. So, dear brother or sister, may I ask you,

**What is the Holy Spirit of the Living God doing in your life today?**

As a believer, you are indwelt by the Spirit. He forever lives in you!

**But are you filled with the Spirit?**

**Have you repented of every known sin and asked the Lord to control you and empower you today?**

Are you using the spiritual gifts He has given you for the benefit of the Body of Christ?